the general industrial policies. As regards duty-free import of technology and raw materials at concessional rates, decisions in this regard are taken keeping in view the exigencies of the situation.

Long-term Loan from IMF

*282. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to start negotiations with the International Monetary Fund for a fresh long-term loan to meet the exigencies arising out of continued adverse balance of payments position; and

(b) if so, whether any final decision has since been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Seizure of hashish in Bombay

*283. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 15th November, 1988 to the effect that in the biggest haul in recent times, Bombay Customs seized 2,600 Kgs. of hashish valued at over Rs. 23 crores;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and whether any arrest have been made in this connection: and

(c) what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On 13th November, 1988 the Bombay Customs seized 2,630 kgs. of hashish (charas), concealed in 90 drums out of a consignment of 275 drums under the export declaration as 'vermiculite', meant for export to Barcelona (Spain) for a consignee in Netherlands. However, investigation revealed that the ultimate recipient of these goods was a person based in Toronto, Ontario.

The precise value of the seized drugs cannot be determined as this is dependent upon various factors like purity of the drug, place of origin and sale, local demand and supply, etc.

The residential premises of the suspected persons have been searched. Two persons involved in this attempt of smuggling have been identified. They are absconding.

No arrest has been made so far in connection with the seizure in question.

Modernisation of jute mills

*285. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the toal amount earmarked, and the amount out of that actually disbursed till 30th September, 1988 under the modernisation of jute mills programme;

(b) whether Government are aware that under the cloak of modernisation, jute mills are importing machinery like plastic tape lines to make union bags;

(c) whether he has received a representation from the All India Tape Manufacturers Association in this behalf; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether it amounts to violation of the Jute Packaging Control Act, providing